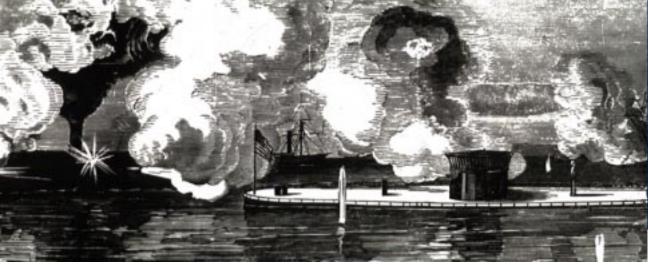


# Monitor



#### **Habitats**

Pelagic, open ocean

Artificial reef

## Key Species

**Amberjack** 

Black sea bass

Red barbier

Scad

**Corals** 

Sea anemones

Dolphin

Sand tiger shark

Sea urchins

#### **Monitor National Marine**

**Sanctuary** was designated the nation's first national marine sanctuary on January 30, 1975. The site was the wreck of the USS Monitor, a Civil War vessel that lies off the coast of North Carolina. The Monitor was the prototype for a class of U.S. Civil War ironclad, turreted warships that significantly altered both naval technology and marine architecture in the nineteenth century. Designed by the Swedish engineer John Ericsson, the vessel contained all of the emerging innovations that revolutionized warfare at sea. The Monitor was constructed in a mere

### **Research Activities**

In recent years a dramatic increase in the rate of deterioration of the Monitor has been documented. Research activities will continue as NOAA seeks solutions to the current crisis. Possible solutions include stabilization of the hull and recovery of selected components of the Monitor, including the engines and turret. Intensive historical research into the construction of these components has been carried out and NOAA has developed a draft preservation plan entitled Charting a New Course for the Monitor that identifies options for prolonging the life of the Monitor. Sanctuary staff continues to provide support to private researchers through the Monitor Collection, which includes historical information as well as visual documentation of the wreck.

#### **Education Activities**

Because of the Monitor's remote location, the majority of the American public cannot visit the site. An active education program includes posters, brochures, a paper model, an activities report, and public presentations designed to bring the Monitor to the public.





Location 16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

**Protected Area** 1-square mile

Designation January 1975

Address The Mariner's Museum 100 Museum Drive Newport News, VA 23606

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E-mail: monitor@noaa.gov

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Above: 1st battle of ironclad vessels; left to right: amberjack living in the wreck; Monitor's anchor; line drawing of a brass signal latern, 1st artifact recover from the Monitor

110 days.







